WE CLAIM:

1.   A method of rendering text and data in a multi-lingual environment, comprising:

receiving a text selection containing text portions entered according to a plurality of spoken languages;

determining whether a text reading order for rendering the text selection on a computer-enabled display has been set;

if no text reading order for rendering the text selection has been set, scanning the text selection to determine whether a first portion of the text selection is entered according to a first spoken language;

if a first portion of the text selection is entered in a first spoken language, determining a text reading order for the first portion of text according to the first spoken language; and

rendering the first portion of the text selection in the determined text reading order for rendering text according to the first spoken language.

2.   The method of Claim 1, after receiving a text selection containing text portions entered according to a plurality of spoken languages, storing the text selection at a memory location.

3.   The method of Claim 1, whereby if a text reading order for rendering the text selection has been set, returning the set text reading order for rendering the text selection on a computer-enabled display.

4.   The method of Claim 1, prior to rendering the first portion of the text selection in the determined text reading order, returning the text reading order associated with the first spoken language as the text reading order for rendering the text according to the first spoken language.

15

5.   The method of Claim 1, whereby the determined text reading order is a left to right text reading order.

6.   The method of Claim 1, whereby the determined text reading order is a right to left text reading order.

7.   The method of Claim 1, whereby scanning the text selection to determine whether a first portion of the text is entered in a first spoken language includes determining whether any text character of the first portion of the text selection identifies the first portion of the text selection as belonging to the first spoken language.

8.   The method of Claim 7, whereby if no text character of the first portion of the text selection identifies the first portion of the text selection as belonging to the first spoken language, determining whether a line property is associated with a line of text containing the first portion of text, where the line property identifies the line of text as belonging to the first spoken language; and

if a line property is associated with a line of text that identifies the line of text as belonging to the first spoken language, returning a text reading order associated with the line property for rendering the line of text.

9.   The method of Claim 8, whereby if no property identifies the line of text as belonging to the first spoken language, determining whether a paragraph property is associated with a paragraph of text containing the line of text, where the paragraph property identifies the paragraph as belonging to the first spoken language; and

if a paragraph property identifies the paragraph as belonging to the first spoken language, returning a text reading order associated with the paragraph property for rendering the paragraph of text.

10.   The method of Claim 9, whereby if no property of the text selection allows the text selection to be identified with a particular text reading order, determining a text reading order associated with a user interface language utilized by a user interface for displaying the text selection; and

returning the text reading order associated with the user interface language for rendering the text selection according to the text reading order associated with the user interface language.

11.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether a text display alignment has been established for the text selection.

12.   The method of Claim 11, whereby if a text display alignment has been established for the text selection, returning the set text display alignment for aligning the text selection.

13.   The method of Claim 11, whereby if no text display alignment has been established for the text selection, determining a text display alignment associated with the user interface language; and

returning the text display alignment associated with the user interface language for aligning the text selection.

14.   The method of Claim 13, further comprising;
rendering the text selection in the determined text reading order; and

aligning the text selection according to the returned text alignment direction.

15.   The method of Claim 14, further comprising:
scanning the text selection to determine whether a second portion of the text selection is entered according to a second spoken language; and

if a second portion of the text selection is entered in a second spoken language, determining a text reading order for the second portion of text according to the second spoken language.

16.   The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

rendering the second portion of the text selection in the determined text reading order for the second portion of the text such that the rendered text selection contains the first portion of the text selection rendered according to the determined reading order for the first portion and the second portion of the text selection rendered according to the determined reading order for the second portion.

17.   The method of Claim 16, whereby rendering the text selection includes rendering the text selection containing both the first portion and the second portion according to the returned text display alignment.

18.   The method of Claim 17, whereby the text alignment is left alignment.

19.   The method of Claim 17, whereby the text alignment is right alignment.

20. A method of rendering text and data in a multi-lingual environment, comprising:

receiving a text selection containing text portions entered according to a plurality of spoken languages;

determining whether a text display alignment has been established for the text selection;

if a text display alignment has been established for the text selection, returning the set text display alignment for aligning the text selection;

if no text display alignment has been established for the text selection, determining a text display alignment associated with a user interface language utilized by a user interface for displaying the text selection; and

returning the text display alignment associated with the user interface language for aligning the text selection.

21. The method of Claim 20, further comprising rendering the text selection according to the returned text alignment direction.

22. A method of rendering text and data in a multi-lingual environment, comprising:

receiving a text selection containing text portions entered according to a plurality of spoken languages;

determining whether a text reading order for rendering the text selection on a computer-enabled display has been set;

if no text reading order for rendering the text selection has been set, scanning the text selection to determine whether a first portion of the text selection is entered according to a first spoken language;

if a first portion of the text selection is entered in a first spoken language, determining a text reading order for the first portion of text according to the first spoken language;

determining whether a text display alignment has been established for the text selection;

if a text display alignment has been established for the text selection, returning the established text display alignment for aligning the text selection;

if no text display alignment has been established for the text selection, determining a text display alignment associated with a user interface language utilized by a user interface for displaying the text selection;

returning the text display alignment associated with the user interface language for aligning the text selection; and

rendering the first portion of the text selection in the determined text reading order, and aligning text selection according to the returned text display alignment.

23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising scanning the text selection to determine whether a second portion of the text selection is entered according to a second spoken language; and if a second portion of the text selection is entered in a second spoken language, determining a text reading order for the second portion of text according to the second spoken language.

24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising:

rendering the second portion of the text selection in the determined text reading order for the second portion of the text such that the rendered text selection contains the first portion of the text selection rendered according to the determined reading order for the first portion and the second portion of the text selection rendered according to the determined reading order for the second portion; and

whereby the text selection containing both the first portion and the second portion is rendered according to the returned text display alignment.